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March 7, 2012

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Part of Public Record

Karl Morell Of Counsel kmorell@balljanik.com

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E-FILED

Ms. Victoria Rutson Chief, Office of Environmental Analysis Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 479X), BNSF Railway

Company -- Abandonment Exemption -- In Page and Fremont

Counties, Iowa

Dear Ms. Rutson:

On February 1, 2012, BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") filed, with the Surface Transportation Board, the Environmental and Historic Reports in the above-referenced proceeding.

Attached please find the additional response BNSF received from the Interim Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Karl Morell Of Counsel

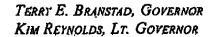
Enclosure

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In reply refer to: R&C#: 111100042



STATE
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OWA

JEROME THOMPSON
ADMINISTRATOR



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CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ORG

March 7, 2012

John A. Sims, CP BNSF Railway Company 2500 Lou Menk Drive - AOB-3 Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2828

RE: STB - PAGE AND FREMONT COUNTY - BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY CO. - STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (SUB-NO.479X) - PROPOSED ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION PROJECT - 5.95 MILES BETWEEN STATION MP20.05 IN SHENANDOAH ENDING AT END OF LINE MP 26.0 IN FARRAGUT - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dear Mr. Sims,

Thank you for providing the additional information to our office concerning the above referenced proposed project. We understand that this project will be a federal undertaking for the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and will need to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. We make the following comments and recommendations based on our examination of this material and in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (revised, effective August 5, 2004); and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Policy Statement on Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation (adopted November 9, 2006), and on The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation recently issued guidance in November 2011 on Meeting the "Reasonable and Good Faith" Identification Standard in Section 106 Review.

Based on your additional information, we understand that no previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the proposed Area of Potential Effect for this undertaking. Given the scope of the undertaking, it is our opinion that there is little likelihood that this undertaking will encounter or adversely impact properties that may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we would be able to concur with the responsible federal agency's (STB) determination that No Historic Properties will be Affected by the implementation of this undertaking if that determination would be provided to our office. Once we receive the responsible federal agency's letter of determination for this undertaking, we can issue our formal recommendations.

Please reference the Review and Compliance Number provided above in all future submitted correspondence to our office for this project. We look forward to further consulting with you and the Surface Transportation Board on this project.

We have provided this technical assistance according to our responsibility defined by Federal law. It remains the federal agency's decision on how you will proceed from this point for this project.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Jones, Archaeologist and Review and Compliance Program Manager

and Interim Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State Historic Preservation Office State Historical Society of Iowa

(515) 281-4358

cc: Ralph Christian, Historian, State Historical Society of Iowa

Troy Brady, Environmental Protection Specialist, STB